

  
Chairman Linda W. Cropp  
at the request of the Mayor

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman, Linda W. Cropp, introduced the following bill, at the request of the Mayor,  
Which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_.

To provide for a uniform credentialing form to be used by health care providers when submitting an application to be credentialed or re-credentialed for a provider panel of a health insurer; and to amend the Health-Care and Community Residence Facility, Hospice and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983 to require a credentials committee to accept a uniform credentialing form.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
That this Act may be cited as the "Health Insurers and Credentialing Intermediaries Uniform Credentialing Form Amendment Act of 2001."

TITLE I. REGULATORY STANDARDS

Sec. 101. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Act, the term:

(1) "Commissioner" means Commissioner of the District of Columbia Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation.

(2) "Credentialing intermediary" means a person to whom a health insurer has delegated credentialing or recredentialing authority and responsibility.

(3) "Health benefit plan" means any accident and health insurance policy or certificate, hospital and medical services corporation contract, health maintenance organization subscriber contract, plan provided by a multiple employer welfare arrangement, or plan provided by another benefit arrangement. The term "health benefit plan" does not mean accident only, credit, or disability insurance; coverage of Medicare services or federal employee health plans, pursuant to contracts with the United States government; Medicare supplemental or long-term care insurance; dental only or vision only insurance; specified disease insurance; hospital confinement indemnity coverage; limited benefit health coverage; coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance, insurance arising out of a workers' compensation or similar law; automobile medical payment insurance; medical expense and loss of income benefits; or insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and that is statutorily required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance.

1 (4) "Health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified, or  
2 otherwise authorized to provide health care services by the District of Columbia pursuant  
3 to Section 102 of the District of Columbia Health Occupation Revision Act of 1985,  
4 effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99, D.C. Code § 2-3301.2); and any agency,  
5 organization, facility or distinct part thereof, licensed pursuant to the Health-Care and  
6 Community Residence Facility, Hospice and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983, effective  
7 February 24, 1984 (D.C. Law 5-48, D.C. Code §§ 32-1301 *et seq.*).

8 (5) "Health insurer" means any person that provides one or more health benefit  
9 plans or insurance in the District of Columbia, including an insurer, a hospital and  
10 medical services corporation, a fraternal benefit society, a health maintenance  
11 organization, a multiple employer welfare arrangement, or any other person providing a  
12 plan of health insurance subject to the authority of the Commissioner.

13 (6) "Provider panel" means the providers that contract with a health insurer to  
14 provide health care services to the enrollees under a health benefit plan of the health  
15 insurer.

16 (7) "Uniform credentialing form" means the form designed by the Commissioner  
17 through regulation for use by a health insurer or its credentialing intermediary for  
18 credentialing and recredentialing of a health care provider for participation on a provider  
19 panel.

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21 Sec. 102. Application for becoming credentialed.

22 (a) A health insurer or its credentialing intermediary shall accept the uniform  
23 credentialing form as the sole application for a health care provider to become  
24 credentialed or recredentialed for a provider panel of the health insurer.

25 (b) A health insurer or its credentialing intermediary shall make the uniform  
26 credentialing form available to any health care provider that is to be credentialed or  
27 recredentialed by that health insurer or credentialing intermediary.

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29 Sec. 103. Penalties.

30 The Commissioner may impose a penalty not to exceed \$500 against any health  
31 insurer for each violation of this chapter by the health insurer or its credentialing  
32 intermediary.

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34 Sec. 104. Regulations.

35 The Commissioner shall issue rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
36 provisions of this chapter.

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38 Sec. 105. Applicability.

39 Health insurers and entities under Section 32-1301 (a) of the Health-Care and  
40 Community Residence Facility, Hospice and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983, effective  
41 February 24, 1984 (D.C. Law 5-48, D.C. Code § 32-1301) must comply with this statute  
42 one hundred twenty (120) days after the promulgation of the final regulations.

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3 TITLE II. UNIFORM CREDENTIALING AMENDMENT TO THE HEALTH-  
4 CARE AND COMMUNITY RESIDENCE FACILITY, HOSPICE AND HOME CARE  
5 LICENSURE ACT

6 Sec. 201. Section 8 (a) of the Health-Care and Community Residence Facility,  
7 Hospice and Home Care Licensure Act of 1983, effective February 24, 1984 (D.C. Law  
8 5-48, D.C. Code § 32-1301 et seq.) is amended by adding the following sentence:

9 "The credentials committee shall accept the District of Columbia's uniform  
10 credentialing form as the sole application for a healthcare provider to become  
11 credentialed or recredentialed."  
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13 TITLE III. FISCAL IMPACT

14 Sec. 301. Fiscal impact statement.

15 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the  
16 fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home  
17 Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code Section 1-233(c)(3)).  
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19 TITLE IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 Sec. 401. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto  
22 by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial  
23 Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in section 203(a) of  
24 the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of  
25 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Code Section 47-392.3(a)), a 30-day  
26 period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of  
27 Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code  
28 Section 1-233(c)(1), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.  
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